REMARKS

The independent claims have been modified to specify that the acrylic resin in the decorative sheet contains a lubricant in an amount to give a coefficient of kinetic friction with respect to a flat glass plate in the range of 0.2 to 0.9. (The change is supported in the specification at page 5, line 19 to page 8, line 28 and the working examples.) Claim 19 has been amended to overcome the objection thereto and two new claims (21 and 22) have been added characterizing the decorative sheet in broader terms than claim 13 but requiring the acrylic resin to contain a lubricant in an amount to give a coefficient of kinetic friction with respect to a flat glass plate in a range of 0.2 to 0.9. New claim 22 recites the glass transition temperature of the acrylic resin; see claims 15 and 17.

The claims before the Examiner are claims 13 to 22.

The rejection of claims 13 to 20 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Takada et al. '916, if applied to the claims as revised and the new claims, is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner had taken the position that the claim language describing the acrylic resin in the instant claims was broad enough to embrace the resins shown in the reference. The Examiner stated that the arrangement shown in Takada et al. '916 would provide a material where the acrylic layer "would inherently have a

coefficient of friction within the instantly claimed range." The revision of the independent claims and the presentation of new claim 21 is believed to render the rejection moot. Applicant acknowledges there is discussion in Takada et al. '916 at column 5, lines 60 to 65 regarding various additives to the photopolymerizable resin composition. The reference working examples show no such additives and it is respectfully submitted that a reading of the reference does not lead one of ordinary skill in the art to the subject matter claimed herein. All the independent claims specify that the acrylic resin contains a lubricant "in an amount to give a coefficient of kinetic friction with respect to a flat glass plate in the range of 0.2 to 0.9." The patent contains no such teaching.

Applicant also respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 13 to 20 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Takada et al. '916, if applied to the claims as amended. The Examiner asserts that because additives such as slip agents or lubricants "can be utilized to modify the coefficient of friction of the resulting coating layer," it would have been obvious to determine by routine experimentation the optimum amount of friction modifying agent for a given end use. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The working and comparative examples in the present invention and the results shown at Table 2 on page 15 establish that one of ordinary skill in

the art is not directed to applicant's invention by mere routine optimization. One needs to control the quantity of the lubricant to give a coefficient of kinetic friction with respect to a flat glass plate in the claimed range (0.2 to 0.9) to achieve the objects of the instant invention, namely, high abrasion resistance and no creasing, strain or dislocation from stress during injection into the injection mold cavity; see the paragraph bridging pages 16 and 17 of the specification. The rejection should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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PLEASE ACCEPT THIS AS AUTHORIZATION TO DEBIT OR CREDIT FEES TO DEP. ACCT. 16-0331 PARKHURST & WENDEL

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 9 to 12 without prejudice or disclaimer and substitute therefor the following:

--13. (Amended) A decorative sheet formed of an acrylic resin that is a member selected from the group consisting of homopolymers of (meth)acrylates, copolymers containing a (meth)acrylate and mixtures thereof [and having] a coefficient of kinetic friction with respect to a flat glass plate in the range of 0.2 to 0.9, said acrylic resin having a glass transition temperature of 80°C or below, said acrylic resin containing a lubricant in an amount to give

14. The decorative sheet of claim 13, further comprising a backing resin sheet laminated to one surface of the decorative sheet.

15. The decorative sheet of claim 13, wherein said acrylic resin homopolymers and copolymers are selected from the group consisting of polymethyl(meth)acrylate, polyethyl(meth)acrylate, polybutyl(meth)acrylate, methyl(meth)acrylate-butyl (meth)acrylate copolymers, methyl(meth)acrylate-ethyl(meth)acrylate copolymers, ethyl(meth)acrylate-butyl(meth)acrylate copolymers, and (meth)acrylate-styrene copolymers.

16. The decorative sheet of claim 15, further comprising a backing resin sheet laminated to one surface of the decorative sheet.

(Amended)

17. A sheet-decorated molding having a surface coated with a decorative sheet formed of an acrylic resin that is a member selected from the group consisting of homopolymers of (meth)acrylates, copolymers containing a (meth)acrylate and mixtures thereof [and having] a coefficient of kinetic friction with respect to a flat glass plate in the range of 0.2 to 0.9, said acrylic resin having a glass transition temperature of 80°C or below. , said acrylic resin containing a lubricant in an amount to give

18. The sheet-decorated molding of claim 17, further comprising a backing resin sheet interposed between the molding and the decorative sheet.

(Amended)

19. The sheet-decorated molding of claim 17, wherein [aid] said acrylic resin homopolymers and copolymers are selected from the group consisting of polymethyl(meth)acrylate, polyethyl(meth)acrylate, poly-butyl(meth)acrylate, methyl(meth)acrylate-butyl (meth)acrylate copolymers, methyl(meth)acrylate-ethyl(meth)acrylate copolymers,

ethyl(meth)acrylate-butyl(meth)acrylate copolymers, and (meth)-acrylate-styrene copolymers.

20. The sheet-decorated molding of claim 19, further comprising a backing resin sheet interposed between the molding and the decorative sheet.--

REMARKS

The claims, specification, and title have been revised in a sincere attempt to advance prosecution.

The title has been changed to eliminate reference to a method and now calls for a decorative sheet or a sheet-decorated molding. Two minor self-evident changes have been made in the specification.

The Examiner's comment regarding the disclosure in the specification at page 16, lines 24 to 29 is acknowledged. The Examiner correctly notes the sample B' could not properly be listed in both quoted areas. It would seem that one B' should be C'. No instructions had been provided to the undersigned on this point. The Examiner will be informed when applicant gives the necessary information to his attorneys.

The rejection of claims 7 and 8 under 35 USC 101 is respectfully traversed. Those claims are not in this case. The Examiner is referred to the first page of the request for